

D Y S P R O S I U M

2015

The 66th British National Science Fiction Convention
(Eastercon)

3-6 April 2015
The Park Inn, London, Heathrow, UK

enquiries@dysprosium.org.uk 

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Guests:

Jim Butcher
Seanán McGuire
Herr Döktor
Caroline Mullan



Progress Report The First

The Guests of Honour



Jim Butcher is the author of the Dresden Files, the Codex Alera, and a new steampunk series, the Cinder Spires. His resume includes a laundry list of skills which were useful a couple of centuries ago, and he plays guitar quite badly. An avid gamer, he plays tabletop games in varying systems, a variety of video games and LARPs whenever he can make

time for it. Jim currently resides mostly inside his own head, but his head can generally be found in his home town of Independence, Missouri.

Seanan McGuire is an American author and filker. She has released thirteen books under her own name and five books under the name "Mira Grant". In 2010, Seanan won the Campbell Award for Best New Author. This was presented to her in Australia, and she still maintains that this makes her the Princess of the Kingdom of Poison and Flame. In 2012, she became the first woman ever to appear on the Hugo ballot four times in a single year, and followed this up in 2013 by becoming the first person ever to appear on the Hugo ballot five times in a single year. It is widely believed that she does not sleep.



Herr Döktor (Ian Crichton) Herr Döktor has been producing Steampunk art and sculpture for the last seven years, with pieces having graced the Museum of Science in Oxford and the Guildhall Museum in London, and the forthcoming 'Longitude Punk'd' exhibition at the Royal Observatory Greenwich. His work has also

appeared in several books and across countless web pages and blogs.

Caroline Mullan has been involved with SF since she was scared by Dr Doolittle when she was 6. She joined fandom at the Worldcon in Brighton in 1979, joined the BSFA, and became involved in fanzines, APAs, and conrunning. She has been Secretary, Treasurer and eventually from 2009-2013 Chair of the Science Fiction Foundation. She is currently guest liaison for Robin Hobb for Loncon 3.



Committee and Contact points:

Chair:



Judi Hodgkin enquiries@dysprosium.org.uk
Judi was Treasurer of Concussion in 2006 as well as hands-on for other aspects of the convention. She has been involved in fandom since her childhood in Australia where some early Swancons might not have happened if her family hadn't provided the venue.

Treasurer:



Sarah Shemilt treasurer@dysprosium.org.uk
Sarah's first experience of conventions was over at The Witching Hour in 2005 where she was Deputy Chair of Accounting & Legal. From there the bug was bitten and in 2009 attended her first Eastercon, which she has attended ever since (broken ankle or not). She is normally to be found in Ops being "polite yet assertive", which includes Loncon 3, her first Worldcon

Secretary/Webmaster:



Paul Taylor: webmaster@dysprosium.org.uk
Paul usually does his best to remain in the background, but seems to have failed on this occasion. He has worked on web sites and other administration for Redemption and several Eastercons, and is currently deputy head of Promotions for Loncon 3.

Hotel Liaison:



Hunting Osprey (Sarah Brider) hotel@dysprosium.org.uk
Drawn into convention going via the Dr Who fandom in 2004, Sarah (Hunting Osprey) is a relative newcomer to Eastercons. Her first was Odyssey and she has attended all Eastercons and Redeptions since. She committed the mistake of performing an act of competency in a public place at Odyssey, she's been incarcerated in Ops for every convention since. Making a bid for freedom, she has joined her first ever committee as Hotel Liaison.

Communications:



Judith Lewis: communications@dysprosium.org.uk
Judith used to be evil. In her past she has: 'borrowed' a member badge to attend a con; slept 6 in a 2-person room; and not volunteered. Since then she has reformed her evil ways and volunteered for numerous conventions as well as running some small ones. She is an expert in online marketing so ideal for Communications.

Operations:



Sian Bradshaw: volunteers@dysprosium.org.uk
Siân was Hotel Liaison officer for Eightsquaredcon 2013 in Bradford and swore it'd be ten years before she went near a Committee again. Given this assertion naturally she is running Ops at Dysprosium 2015.

Legal/Assisting with Programme:



Peter Harrow Esq, LLB (Hons), V.S.S.
Attending Eastercon first with Concussion, Peter then went on to staff as part of the Programme Team for Contemplation. Peter put together the bid and was Co-Chair of LX. In real life a solicitor, Peter has the soul of an artist (amongst several he has collected) and his sculptures are well known to habitués of the Art Show.

Head of Programme:



Dave Row - programme@dysprosium.org.uk
Dave has been attending Cons since... well, if he were younger he could probably remember when. His first convention was a Novacon memorable for the (oddly unique) decision to hold the fancy dress competition around the swimming pool, with the expected result. He has been responsible for running a number of anime conventions, including the first one held in the UK, but has so far managed to evade the consequences.

Committee Member Without Portfolio:



Tim Kirk
Tim started going to conventions through gaming and comics events in the late 80s. 1990 saw him going to Eastercon and turning up early to help. The final PR had a call for volunteers, and said that was a good way to make new friends. It proved to be so. Since then he has been at almost every Eastercon. Generally helping with green room and art show, and putting in various stints elsewhere in conrunning. Outside SF fandom Tim is a cyclist, gamer and regular sleeping place for cats.

Advisors:



John Naylor and Karen Glover
John and Karen (Major Tinker and Lady Elsie) are exceedingly busy people. Without them, Steampunk in the UK would be vastly poorer and possibly, non-existent. They bring to the committee a wealth of experience of running conventions and ideas that will make Dysprosium one of the most

memorable Eastercons ever.

Membership

	Now-21 Apr 2014	22 Apr-19 Aug 2014	20 Aug 2014- 31 Jan 2015	1 Feb-3 Apr 2015
Adult Attending	£55.00	£60.00	£70.00	£80.00
Adult Supporting	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Junior (12-17)	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00	£25.00
Child (5-11)	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
Infant (0-5)	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
Apocryphal	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00	£1.00

Membership can be purchased at Satellite 4 among other conventions and online at www.dysprosium.org.uk.

The Venue: The Park Inn, Heathrow.

The hotel is a new one for us, but they are very keen to make Eastercon everything it can be. It forms the third of the holy trinity of larger hotels on the Heathrow ring road. It will feel familiar to fans as it is just up the road from our old favourite, its cousin, the Radisson Edwardian Blu. Regular goers at Novacon know The Park Inn chain and we hope that this Heathrow destination will give us a nice alternative to our regular haunt.

Facilities:

- Free Wi-fi
- Swimming pool and gym
- Hotel restaurant/carvery + Costa Coffee in the lounge.
- Shuttle to the airport (where you can also pick up the Underground)

Room Rates:

£69 Single Occupancy

£79 Double Occupancy

Upgrade to Business Room £35 per room per night

Upgrade to Suite £135 per room per night

All prices include Breakfast and VAT

Convention room rates will apply from Thursday to Monday night.

Getting There:

Address: Park Inn, Bath Road, Heathrow, UB7 ODU

Distance to airport: 1.6km (Taxi fare is approximately £12 for a black cab; there is no pedestrian access from the Heathrow terminal).

Distance to train station: 1km

By underground (Piccadilly Line): The nearest Underground station is Heathrow Terminal 1-3, and catch Hotel Hoppa H2. Alternatively go to Heathrow Central Bus Station and take Red public bus 110, 105, 140, 285. Say you are going to the Park Inn on Bath Road and travel is free.

By car: From the London A4: follow signposts for terminals 1, 2, and 3. At the traffic light where signs indicate a left turn from the airport, turn right and take the first left into the hotel entrance.

From the M25: Follow signs for M4 Heathrow terminals 1, 2, and 3. Take the exit 4 for Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, and 3 and go up Spur Road toward Heathrow Airport. Turn left at the A4 London sign and left again. The hotel is directly ahead of you.

Parking is available but managed by Parking Eye and is not free. Make sure you register at the reception desk. During the convention (Friday to Monday), parking will be charged at £5 per day. Overflow parking is available in the NCP to the rear of the hotel, but is at standard rates.

Catering in the hotel:

There is a restaurant, (£13-25) a lounge bar (£5-14), and convention food (£2-£16) available on site. Vegetarian and vegan choices will be available. Please let us know if you have particular dietary requirements.

The hotel has given us the go ahead to get our choice of Real Ale and Cider in and they will run the bar, so the search for a brewery to work with has begun!

Policies

Dysprosium is committed to tolerance and diversity. The convention will release its formal policies in Progress Report The Second.

Accessibility:

The hotel is 100% accessible. There are no rooms a wheelchair or scooter cannot access and only one room in the convention space that has a ramp to access. There is no hearing loop in the hotel but we are making enquiries into hiring one: please do contact the committee to explain your needs.

If you have specific issues that need addressing please contact either the chair, Judi Hodgkin; or for programme related issues Dave Row, and Hotel issues, Sarah Brier.

Call for Volunteers:

All Eastercons are volunteer run: we need people to help with operations, registration, setting up (from building the art show to moving chairs), tech crew, in the greenroom and to run errands. We value anyone and everyone: if you have the skills we can use you, if you don't, we can teach you.

Programme

We are looking to provide a very varied programme that caters to old and new members alike, and a very broad range of interests as well as 'classic' SF. In addition to some of the 'old favourites', we hope to include many new items, and are looking for experts in various fields to complement the programme. If you know someone from a university, museum or industry who is a good speaker, let us know! We also want to hear from you if you have a good idea for a workshop.

Costuming

We are having a masquerade/costume event of some sort and costuming sessions so do get your glad rags out and get ready to show off!

Creche

Interested in a creche? Please let programme know how many kids you'd be looking to place in a creche and how old they are so we can gauge interest. We can't promise anything at this point but by helping us understand demand we can better assess the situation.

Dalekdrome

Cyberdrome is exterminated! It has been replaced by the superior species! Dalekdrome - Pimp my Dalek! Is a competition designed for all budding and experienced hackers and makers, who own or have access to a 12 inch remote controlled Dalek.

This two part competition involves first the makeover of said Dalek to a design or specification of your choosing, and second the running of said "pimped" Dalek through an timed obstacle course to find a grand Champion.



Simple eh?

Part 1 is where you can allow your imagination to let rip, and choose a theme for your Dalek. Anything goes, it could be historical, a Roman era Dalek, it could be a Dalek version of something in popular culture such as a Pony Dalek with scoring for imagination, interpretation and difficulty.

You can choose a less difficult option of basically just a cosmetic makeover, or undertake a more involved hack into its motors and guidance systems making your Dalek more powerful and more agile for Part 2 (hint, there will be stairs). You decide on the balance between looks and capability.

The round winners and grand champion is to be decided by Herr Doktor, who has professionally designed Doctor Who toys, and who has himself created a steampunk remote controlled "Great Uncle Davros".

For inspiration, above is a picture of my own "pimped" steampunk Dalek. He required structural alteration as well as cosmetic alteration, without any hack to his innards, and would be classified as 'medium' difficulty for the purposes of Part 1. He retains original function, but the additional weight slows him down, and affects his agility, putting him at a disadvantage with the unmodified Dalek.

Good luck and get pimping!